SIEGE

— OF —

THE FORT OF ST. JOHNS

In 1775.

Written in French by LUCIEN HUOT, and translated by
GEO. H. FLINT.

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I.

Last year, while digging at the mouth of a little creek which runs through the farm where my family spend the holidays, and in clearing the shore of the Richelieu River at the junction of the two streams in order to make a dock worthy of the steam yacht "La Mouche," I found some very interesting relics at a depth of two or three feet. The first was an unexploded iron shell, the wooden stopper still in its place. Then I turned up other iron missiles of different sizes,—a blunderbuss, bar shot, grape shot, &c., and also a horse shoe and stirrup, all in a perfect state of preservation.

To whom had these things belonged was a natural question. Were they left there during the French *regime* or at a more recent date? The rust which had formed on them and the thickness of the soil which had accumulated over them seemed to indicate that many years had passed since they had found this resting place.

Had these missiles been fired by the garrison of the fort while practising? Had the stirrup and horse shoe belonged to an officer who had lost them while hunting, or to some young man of the time, who, returning late on a dark night from a visit to a fair friend, had, on arriving at the creek, taken a leap beyond his horse's power and landed deep in the mire? Or had this been the scene of one of the battles so frequent in those early days as the presence of these many articles would seem to indicate?

Although of military descent, my military education is very limited and I know but little about materials of war. The position of an army many years ago cannot be located definitely by the discovery of cannon and musket balls at the present, neither can the age or nationality of those who fired them be definitely determined by their shape and size, because at one time the French and the English used their enemy's

arms whenever they chanced to lay hold of them. The horse shoe, however, is more within the scope of my scientific knowledge, and I confess that it is my opinion it never shod a farm horse. This is easily seen by its lines. Whether the blacksmith who forged it was French, English or American, and whatever the century in which he lived, he deserves the credit which is the due of a good workman.

Since the foundation of the colony, St. Johns has always been important from a military point of view. Here the French built a fort to defend the possession of the Richelieu against attacks by way of Lake Champlain, this river at that time forming the route of communication between Montreal and the neighboring country.

THE FIRST FORT.

According to Garneau, the historian, the first fort was built in 1665, by order of M. De Tracy, the Governor of the Colony, simultaneously with that of Chambly and several others. The plan of this first fort, a draft of which is in the Parliamentary Library at Ottawa, indicates that it was roomy and elegant in construction, the four angles being formed by bastions several storeys high, with pinnacles, which must have given it a very fine appearance, The trenches which surround the present military school would therefore date from that time—more than two hundred years ago.

Although St. Johns was the first outpost erected to guard the colony of Montreal against an attack from that direction, the history does not mention that any important fight ever took place under its walls during the period of continuous war between the French and English. It was the *rendez-vous* for all the expeditions to Lake Champlain and Lake George. It was well situated for the purpose. Standing at the head of the Chambly rapids, where the navigation of Lake Champlain, at least for war boats, ended, at a time when the waters of that lake were constantly furrowed by important naval forces, St. Johns formed the south angle of a triangle completed by Chambly and Laprairie, which had to be crossed before the French colony could be entered and Montreal attacked. (*)

BEFORE AND SINCE THE CONQUEST.

A military force of more or less importance, therefore, had always been stationed in St. Johns up to the time of the conquest. But as no important engagement took place during that period it is not probable that the shell and balls found by me could be traced to it. If I am not mistaken target shooting was not as fashionable then as it is today. The battle fields afforded sufficient practice, and, moreover, the scarcity of ammunition, especially for the artillery, made it necessary for it to be kept in reserve for an enemy.

I had, therefore, to come to the conclusion that the missiles I had found dated from the siege of the fort of St. Johns by Montgomery

(*) At that time the whole sheet of water as far as St. Johns was called the "Lake." In fact the absence of current in this wide part of our river makes it appear as if it formed a portion of Lake Champlain.

in 1775, and that the stirrup must have belonged to a rider of a hundred years past. Since that date several generations have followed each other, and the remembrance that a fight took place there has almost died out. In the meantime military science has progressed, implements of war have been greatly improved, and human beings can now be attacked and destroyed with much greater ease and certainty. The arms of that period, not being sufficiently murderous to meet the exigencies of the present civilization, have gone out of date, and being of no value would have been completely forgotten were not men endowed with the faculty of memory and did they not profess a very high regard for things which have passed.

II.

After the battle of the Plains of Abraham, which gave the possession of Quebec to the English, and during which Wolfe and Montcalm, the commanding generals of the two armies, were slain, the *Sieur* De Roquemaure, who commanded at St. Johns, had the fort blown up and burnt, by order of the Marquis de Vaudreuil, who determined that it should not be surrendered to the English army. This took place on August 31st, 1760, three days after the *Sieur* De Bougainville had fled from Isle-aux-Noix, on the approach of a formidable English army.

No hope now was left to the little French abandoned army in Canada, and the capitulation of Montreal, which soon followed, put an end to a conflict which had lasted nearly 200 years.

During the fifteen years of peace which followed, up to the American Revolution, the ashes of the Fort of St. Johns were not disturbed, and it was only in 1775, after the first expedition of the celebrated Colonel Ethan Allen, at the head of his "Green Mountain Boys," that General Guy Carleton, the Governor of Canada, decided to rebuild the fort.

In the same year it was besieged by General Montgomery. Thus it is now 113 years since this famous siege took place. This expedition has been known in this part of the country as "*Invasion des Bostonnais*," "the Invasion of the Bostonians."

The citizens of Boston had taken up arms in revolt against England on account of the imposition of certain taxes which they considered to be unjust, and this led to the revolution which lost to England half of this continent.

It was at this time that a young Vermonter, Ethan Allen, from the neighborhood of Burlington, with his friend, Seth Warner, took command of a company of his fellow citizens. They distinguished themselves by their audacity and pluck in several encounters and were nicknamed "the Green Mountain heroes" of 1775. The Green Mountain Boys were the terror of the whole neighboring country. (*)

One of their first exploits was the capture of fort Ticonderoga,

(*) Green Mountain is the English translation of *Montagne Verte* or *Vermont* which is the name retained by the State on the other side of the boundary line.

which previously had been called *Carillon.* Allan surprised it durin the night at the head of a small party of his men. Their entrance wa effected so cleverly that the sentry did not even have time to awaker the commanding officer who was made prisoner in his bed.

After having taken possession of Crown Point, on Lake Cham plain, one of their parties led by Arnold, during the month of May advanced to Isle-aux-Noix, and on as far as St. Johns, where bu twelve men had been left in charge of the stores. He took possessio of the munitions of war including the provisions and also of the gu boat "George." Then, following the Laprairie road, he took up a position in the bushes of Lacadie to receive in good style the Britisl soldiers whom he expected would be sent in pursuit of him. The not making their appearance, he quietly retired, taking to Lake Cham plain in the gun boats the stores of the Fort, postponing to a more favorable opportunity his contemplated surprise to the inhabitants o Montreal.

It was immediately after this that the Governor, General Guy Carleton, decided to rebuild in a substantial manner the fort of St Johns. To this end he sent from Quebec and Three Rivers all the troops that were there, under the command of Major Preston, togethe with considerable artillery and ammunition. There were also sent carpenters and ship builders so that while the fort was being built some gun boats might be under way. One of the latter, the "Royal Sauvage," carrying several guns, was sunk in front of the fort during the siege, by the floating artillery of Montgomery.

At low water, now, at the south angle of the fort, can be seen the skeleton of a boat, whose strong ribs stand erect almost to the level of the water and are a cause of terror to the rowers of the numerous light skiffs which now wrinkle these waters. Might this not be the solid frame of the "Royal Sauvage," which has been sleeping there for over a century?

III.

The United States Congress having entrusted the invasion of Canada to Generals Schuyler and Montgomery, they selected Crown Point as their place of meeting.

Chevalier DeLorimier, a brave young French Canadian, who ex ercised considerable influence over the Indians of the St. Louis Rapids (Caughnawaga) had offered his services to the Governor of Canada, who employed him as scout, his special duty being to keep him posted on the movements of the American army of Lake Champlain.

One evening in the month of August, while DeLorimier was returning from the lake in a canoe paddled by three Indians, and when near the mouth of the Lacolle river three shots were fired at them from a boat at the shore. Two of his Indians were wounded, one in the neck and the other in the leg. DeLorimier and the unwounded Indian replied by firing at the bush in the direction from which the

shots had come and there was no response. Next morning, on returning to his work, he found the dead body of an American officer lying on a bed of leaves at the place from which the attack on the previous evening had come. It was the body of Captain Baker who had been shot in the forehead. This was the first blood shed in the war between the United States and Canada at the opening of the American revolution.

As may be readily understood, DeLorimier was what is called "a good shot." He had not missed his target this time, and he was not in the habit of missing. Vigorous, strong, courageous and brave, he was the very man to influence the Indians who recognized in him the perfect type of hunter and wood runner. His fine figure and his intelligence together with a little blue blood rendered him one of the most distinguished French Canadians of the time. After having been advanced several grades during the war of the conquest in which he had served his apprenticeship, he went to reside in Lachine with his brother Chamilly, and was supporting his old mother and a young sister. But the smell of gunpowder made him abandon family and everything to fly to the front.

On the fifth of September Generals Schuyler and Montgomery landed an army of nearly 2,000 men at Isle-aux-Noix. The next day a division of nearly 1,400 men under the command of General Schuyler came further down the stream and landed at the mouth of the little river that is now known as the "Bernier," about a mile above the fort of St. Johns.

During the time the enemy were landing and entrenching, DeLorimier with 90 Indians was keeping a sharp look out after them. He was also accompanied by his brother and Captain Tice. When they arrived at the little river they could plainly see the Americans on the other side. They opened fire and marked several of them, especially officers. The Americans, frightened by the shots of an invisible enemy, began to run in the direction of their boats. Soon, however, they returned and continued to entrench themselves, being fully determined to resist any attack. A few of the Indians swam the creek and rushed to the attack, yelling their war cry. They were led by the grand chief "Sotsiennouane," who was nicknamed the "grenadier." Bearing no other arms than a kind of lance and DeLorimier's hunting knife, he rushed forth and killed three Americans before falling deadly wounded. The Americans, frightened by the sight of such formidable and determined warriors, fled to Isle-aux-Noix, leaving their dead on the field. "Te Deum" services were offered in all the churches of the Province in acknowledgement of this successful action.

This important victory should not be forgotten. The battle field should be marked by the erection of a monument upon which the heroic names should be engraved and handed down to future ages. With all due respect to the memory of Bernier, whose name has been given to this river and without disputing his right to the never ending gratitude of his countrymen, would it not be more proper that the

name of this little stream, whose waters were reddened by the blood of the brave Indian chief, and whose shores witnessed a feat of intrepid courage which forms one of the noblest pages in our history, should recall one of the heroes of those days. The "Chevalier's" river no doubt would be a fitting name to bring to mind the gallant commander of that small body—Chevalier DeLorimier—but it might be still more appropriate to give it the name of "Grenadier" river in memory of the grand old chief of Caughnawaga who with an ordinary hunting knife rushed upon a little army and had time to kill three of their number, armed to the teeth, and to attack the fourth before falling.

In any case the old name "Montgomery Creek," would be better than the name it now bears, which name is immortalized already by a line of farms which these famous pioneers, the Berniers, have settled, and which they have made one of the richest plots of land in the neighborhood.

IV.

General Schuyler, disgusted by such a misadventure as that related in the last chapter, feigning ill-health, retired to Ticonderoga and left the command of the army to General Montgomery. The latter was a distinguished officer and had the advantage of knowing the country well. Of Irish origin, he had joined the British army at the age of fifteen, and at twenty-one, being then a captain, he had witnessed Wolfe's death on the Plains of Abraham. At the period of the narrative, when he undertook to besiege Quebec again and to reconquer Canada, he was but thirty-seven. During the interval he had left the British army and settled in the United States, where he married a young lady of noble character and of good family, the daughter of Judge Livingstone, of New York, and retired on a farm on the Hudson. He was here when, called by the new country of his adoption, he bade farewell to his young wife in the memorable words: "You will never have to blush for your Montgomery, adieu," and he kept his word.

The intrepid bravery he exhibited in forcing the artillery of the Quebec Citadel, on the following 31st December, was but an indication of his character. At the head of a small party of picked men, he was the first to be mowed down, a victim to his daring. His poor widow, who for forty years wore mourning in his memory, never indeed had to blush for him. She put aside that grand mourning attire, only on the eve of the day that the remains of her beloved "soldier," as she called him, were borne in triumph in front of that same residence on the Hudson forty years after the sad leave-taking with his beloved wife. Taken from Quebec, where they had been buried, after having been found under the snow on New Year's day, 1776, these glorious remains, in 1818, were carried in triumph on a steamer which had been chartered for the purpose by Mayor Dewitt Clinton, and deposited in the porch of St. Paul's Church, Broadway, New York, where a monument, that had been brought from Paris, was ready to receive them.

To-day, notwithstanding the protection of the porch of the church, the fine marbles of that artistic monument are darkened; but still more than one passing by on that busy street stop to admire it, and Montgomery is one of the best known names in American history.

On the 17th of September, after General Schuyler's departure, Montgomery again advanced to St. Johns in boats, and effected a landing at the mouth of the Little Bernier river, the same place where they had been repulsed a fortnight before. The main body of the army was barricaded at this place whilst a battalion under command of Major Brown was sent on to encamp on the north side of the fort, on what was at that time called the "big point," about a mile down the river. Sentries were posted along the edge of the forest at *Coteau des Hetres* (beech hillock) and a battery placed on the east side of the river, Thus the fort was entirely surrounded and the only possible way for the garrison to communicate with Montreal or Chambly was by the river.

The garrison was composed of a portion of the "Royal Fusiliers" or 7th regiment, and also of the 26th regiment, in all 500 men, under command of Major Preston. There were besides 120 French Canadian volunteers headed by Mr. DeLongueuil who had come to their aid.

Fifteen years had passed since the conquest, and during these fifteen years all government offices as well as military charges had passed into the hands of the British bureaucracy, without an exception. It was under these circumstances, while no personal consideration nor national sentiment could influence them, that 120 French Canadians the pick of the nobility, professional men and merchants of Montreal, were the first to come forward to defend their new government, whilst the English colonists themselves were inclined to favor the rebels, their friends of Boston and New York, who had their sympathies and to whom they gave assistance openly on several occasions.

On the first sign of danger the French Canadians of Montreal held meetings, consulted with each other, listened to the reading of pressing invitations sent to them by the American Government, the congress and by General Washington. Whilst the English population was favoring the movements of the enemy our ancestors of French origin, remembered that they had sworn their faith and loyalty to the British king, their new master, and laying aside their national feeling in presence of their duty, they did not hesitate to offer their services to General Guy Carleton, then Governor of Canada, who accepted them as volunteers.

This handful of volunteers without commission or rank, commanded by the Baron de Longueuil, comprised amongst others De Bélestre, De Lotbinière, De Boucherville, St. Luc De Lacorne, Chevalier De la Bruère, De St. Ours, De Montigny, D'Eschambault, De la Magdelaine, De Montesson, De Rigaudville, De Salaberry, De Tonnancourt, De Florimont, Jucherau Duchesnay, Perthuis, Hervieux, Gaucher, Giasson, Campion Beaulieu, Des Aulniers, Lamarque, De

Musseau, Foucher, Marquis, the two De Lorimiers, Monnier, De Lavaltrie, De Lamoraudière, Beaulieu, Des Ruisseaux, Tessier, Antoine Dupré, De Richerville, Leduc, Rainville, Chenier, De Bellefeuille, &c.

The fortress of St. Johns, as the Americans called it, was constructed of two forts, running parallel to each other and surrounded by trenches which still remain. It was well supplied with cannon and ammunition, but not sufficiently provisioned to sustain a long siege.

The Canadians, on the appearance of the enemy, made a sortie and offered fight without much result. Several of them were killed, among others Des Aulniers and Perthuis; De LaBruère had both arms shot, and St. Luc de Lacorne died from wounds received during the siege. They captured a few prisoners, among whom was Captain Hazen, a retired officer who had resided on the Iberville side and who had previously joined the American army.

Chevalier De Lorimier twice succeeded in leaving the fort in order to procure assistance from the Governor to relieve the garrison. It was easy enough for him to leave but very difficult to return. Once in the night he got back into the fort by imitating the jumps and bleating of a deer, and did it so naturally, as he himself relates, that he heard the sentries remark, as he passed through them, "there goes a deer." The Americans having heard from the Indians how he got back into the fort swore they would take him if he made another attempt. In this, however, they were equally unsuccessful, for shortly afterwards he did make another attempt in which he was successful, and by the vigor of his legs and rapidity of his running outstripped the different parties placed in the woods for the purpose of surrounding him. Captain Brown, who commanded at Laprairie, sent a company specially for the purpose of securing him, but on their reaching Caughnawaga he jumped into a canoe, crossed over to Lachine in sight of them, escaped the balls and shot whizzing on every side of him, and on arriving at Lachine bid them good-bye.

V.

Meanwhile the Americans occupied all the neighboring country, including the forts of Laprairie and Longueuil. Colonel Ethan Allan at the head of his "Green Mountain Boys," had at the beginning joined the army under Montgomery, but finding the siege too slow a business for him, he visited the country, and, aided by some English people such as Hazen, of Iberville, and the Livingstons of Chambly, he gained the confidence of a certain number of French Canadians and formed a camp at Point Olivier, opposite Chambly. On Sunday, the twenty-fourth of September, he crossed over from Boucherville to Longue Point, and while making preparations to raid Montreal, he was surprised and made prisoner at Mijon's creek, now Maisonneuve. On the eighteenth of October, Major Stopford, who commanded at Chambly, surrendered that fort to Major Brown, who made him and his command prisoners of war. Stopford made no effort to defend the

fort, he did not even fire a cannon. The garrison only comprised about one hundred men, but the quantity of arms, ammunition and provisions of all sorts kept in reserve in the place was considerable; besides that it also contained the colors of the two regiments, which were so gallantly engaged in defending the fort of St. Johns. The men were sent to Boston as prisoners of war, the flags were sent to the congress, the women and children, numbering in all seventy, were set free, and the arms and ammunition were brought to the camp at St. Johns. These supplies were of great service to the beseigers as nearly all Montgomery's supplies were exhausted.

Meanwhile Gen. Guy Carleton, although urgently requested by the inhabitants of Montreal, where he was stationed, and urged by the volunteers from the country who came to assist him, did not make an effort to fight his way to St. Johns or to come to the rescue of the beseiged. Chenier and Leduc had succeeded in leaving the fort to bring him news. Richerville and the other Leduc had also found their way out and brought letters from Major Preston. At length, on the twenty-seventh of October, the Governor seemed to make an effort to cross over to Longueuil from St. Helen's Island, which he had fortified. He was, however, compelled to retire without securing any advantage.

The two De Lorimiers at the head of a party of Indians, and accompanied by the Canadian volunteers, while moving to the front, and braving the fire of the shore, had also to retire in consequence of the regulars not coming to their support.

Discouraged, short of victuals, crushed by the number of the enemy, and having stood a fire always increasing in intensity since the surrender of Chambly, the gallant garrison of St. Johns decided at last to accept the terms of capitulation offered by Montgomery, and laid down their arms on the third of November, at ten o'clock in the morning. (*) The officers were granted the privilege only accorded to the brave, to keep their swords, but all without exception were immediately sent to Boston as prisonners of war.

During the siege the French Canadian volunteers distinguished themselves by their bravery and endurance, though the historians neglected to record their appreciation of those defenders of St. Johns at its true value. They were the first to fight, and indeed the only ones who were killed outside the walls in offering an open fight to the

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(*) It seems from Horace Walpole's journal that the news of the capitulation of the fortress of St. Johns produced the greatest excitement in England, and threw the ministers (excepting only Lord North) into the greatest consternation. He says: "On the 28th December, accounts came that Carleton had deserted Montreal, which the Provincials took, and had shut himself up in Quebec, having but 700 men, all they had kept for the guard of the whole Province, and the Canadians, whom he could not trust; for the Canadians, in spite of the restoration of their religion, leaned towards the Provinces."

We have already shown that this view of the position of the Canadians, as he calls them as far as they apply to French-Canadians, was not the correct one. With but few exceptions, when left alone and given their own leaders, they stood side by side with the regular English forces in defence of their country, and if they had been aided by General Carleton, Montgomery would have been compelled to have raised the siege of St. Johns.—[G. F.

enemy. Faithful to the last our ancestors did not spare their lives in defence of their country.

This heroism and generosity on their part, contributed much more than has generally been acknowledged, to preserve Canada to the British Crown. Without them St. Johns would probably have surrendered as Chambly and Montreal did without fighting. If Montgomery, instead of spending two months in the then unhealthy marshes of St. Johns, had immediately and early in the season reached Quebec with a fresh army after taking possession of the country, the fate of the colony might have been far different from what it has been.

Since then, many a time our fellow countrymen, who have displayed equal courage in upholding the British flag, both politically and socially, have been accused of Anglomania, a reproach unjust and uncalled for. As well might they find fault with the noble heroes who, first at St. Johns and the Cedres and then at Chateauguay, traced for us, with their swords, the path of duty and honor.

This siege had lasted forty-five days, and to form an idea of the vigor of the enemy's fire it will be sufficient to mention that on the first of November, Gen. Wooster, whom the Congress had sent to help Montgomery, having established a battery of four cannons and six mortars in a bulwark (redoute) built on the north-west side of the fort, at a distance of 250 yards, the Bostonians fired during that day 840 cannon shots besides 120 bomb shells. These relics of past warfare are still found almost in every direction. Colonel d'Orsonnens, in making a garden within the old lines of the fort, found several of them, and the old farmers of St. Johns remember having found some on the farms in the neighborhood.

I have found them myself at a distance of from 300 to 400 yards from the fort, but these probably were fired from the fort, not at it, as it is not probable that the enemy would miss the target so widely, unless these missiles could possibly have been shot by the American gun boats which were anchored some distance on the river and formed the floating battery of the south. The official report describes the finding in the fort of 20 brass pieces of artillery of which two were 24 pounders, one twelve pounder, four six pounders, two four pounders, eight three pounders, and two eight inch howitzers. Also 6 iron guns nine pounders, 1 eight pounder, 11 six pounders, 1 five pounder, 1 four pounder, 2 three pounders besides three 5½ inch mortars and four 4 2-5 inch.

VI.

At that date this part of the country was far from being settled to any extent. In fact these endless wars rendered the neighborhood of a fort a place of very little security for the settlers. There were some few houses near the river on each side, although very little can be found in the documents of the time to trace them now. There must have been a few between St. Johns and Isle-aux-Noix, as Per-

thuis was killed and De Labruère had both his arms broken in defending one of them, six miles above St. Johns at the first "grand point" now called "Point à la Mule." (1)

The Captain Hazen above mentioned had his residence on the east side of the river nearly opposite the fort, and he had farms on the west side on the road from St. Johns to Chambly near the Savanna. On the evening that De Lorimier left the fort for Montreal, having Captain Hazen in charge, who had been taken prisoner in the enemy's camp, they, in the darkness of the night, got lost in the woods, and in the morning being near the Savanna (now St. Luke), Captain Hazen directed De Lorimier to the house of one of his farmers situated near the river where they got some food. It was that same Captain Hazen who was afterwards Governor of Montreal during a part of the following winter while Montgomery was besieging Quebec. He must therefore have been let free in the meantime, or have made his escape from his captors.

In locating as nearly as possible persons and properties that then existed, there will always be more or less difficulty, especially in a new country as this country then was. For instance it has been contended that Captain Hazen's residence was situated where the McGinnis or Whitfields now live, on the property formerly owned by General Christie; and this at first sight seems plausible since the pretty little river which divides these two properties is called *Hazen river* and the bridge which spans it is called *Hazen bridge.* Later on, however, a tanner named Hazen had his tannery on that river, and the probability is that the river was named after him instead of the Governor of that name.

It seems from a claim made to the Government by the widow Babuty that barns belonging to the Babuty (2) family had been destroyed during the siege to prevent the enemy securing shelter behind them. The stone house which has since been used as a powder magazine, was then the residence of the Babutys. It is mentioned in a council of war held by Montgomery, who intended to establish a battery at a distance of 400 yards on the north side of the south fort, and in the direction of that stone house. The little plan which was fyled with the Babuty's claim shows that the powder magazine was then in another place inside of the fort. It is also said in that claim that the Babuty residence was only 60 yards from the fort, and the farm upon which it was built was six acres wide on the river by a depth of 30 acres; and bounded on the south side by the trench of the fort, which formed the line of division. The trench which now surrounds this house, called the powder magazine, did not exist at that time. The ground upon which this house is built did not belong to the govern-

(1) That place was also called "le détroit," the narrows, no doubt on account of the narrowness of the river in that place.

(2) Babuty or Baberty, the copy made by Rev. Mr. Verreau of the original claim reads Babuty, whilst the local deeds since drawn read Baberty. I tried but without success to find this document in the archives at Ottawa. It seems to have been lost.

ment, and it is only later that it must have been acquired.

The St. Johns fortress, as the American officers called it in their correspondence, appeared to be then composed of two forts defended all round by a pallisade of posts and a trench full of water, which had to be crossed by a "*pont levis*," flying bridge, the nature of which can be surmised from the relics of the old one at Isle-aux-Noix.

The south fort was built at the place where is now built the military school, while the other, the northern fort, was inside the bulwarks now deserted, which are situated on the north-west side of the railway to Rouse's Point. There was a communication between the two by means of a deep trench, which is still visible. No where can we find the mention of a church, nor village, nor parish of St. Johns, although the parishes of Chambly are often mentioned. I am therefore inclined to believe there was no village then.

Shortly after, however, a small group of houses was built on the present site of Richelieu street. In 1812 it was known under the name of "La Roquerie," probably a corruption of "Ropery," which once had been established there. Some clearings had been made around the fort also at Coteau des Hêtres, Beach hillock, now St. Luke. Outside of that the forest extended as far as Laprairie without interruption.

As already mentioned Montgomery's army formed two camps. The main body had remained at the little river Bernier, a mile above the fort, where he had it entrenched and protected. To avoid surprise the camp had been formed beyond that river, which formed a natural trench, to protect the works which were probably built of logs. No earthworks of any importance were made, as no trace of them can now be fonnd, neither on the Pinsonnault nor the Bourgeois farm, nor in the neighborhood.

The square excavation which is to be seen near the river on the Towner farm is the remains of an old brick yard; and as to the earth work which follows the little river on this side, and which resembles a military work as seen from the present main road, the farmers state that it was built more recently to prevent the flooding of that river.

That portion of the Pinsonnault farm which was cleared by old Mr. L'Ecuyer, upon which took place the first fight between the Canadians and the Bostonians, in which De Lorimier with his ninety men routed 1400 regulars, headed by two generals, should be for us the citizens of St. Johns an object of special attention.

There is at this place a mineral spring, highly recommended for its medicinal properties by the physicians who tested it. This spring was first discovered by the deer of the forest. A deep track leading to it had been made by them in constantly passing to and fro for the purpose of drinking its cool and slightly salted water.

This would be a pretty situation for a kiosque, and a company could no doubt secure the privilege by a lease under moderate conditions from the proprietor. It would be quite an attraction for the

locality, and at the same time would be a memento of the spot where the brave "Grenadier" fell.

VII.

The second camp of the Americans was at the big point a mile below the fort.

That is the point from which is obtained an uninterrupted view of the river as far as St. Therese island and which is now adorned with the cosy villa of our friend Judge Chagnon, and which for two months was occupied by the American camp. The bridge over the creek, which empties into the bay behind, had been cut in order to interrupt communication by the road from Chambly and Laprairie, and also to prevent a surprise on that side.

At that time the Laprairie road joined the Chambly road at this bridge. After the farms were sold, this part of the old road between the river and the Beach hillock was abolished, and replaced by the present one.

The soil on which the camp was placed was heavy clay, and as at that season of the year, a great deal of rain fell, the soldiers in their letters to their friends complained a good deal about its unhealthiness. In spite of the mud, however, and of the sickness, the troops managed to enjoy themselves much better in this, than in the General's camp. Several cart-loads of rum and provisions, forwarded from Chambly, and intended for the fort, were seized and the men having nothing to do, spent their time in singing songs and joking, while at the same time indulging in prospect of future victory which was however very slow to come.

If the ghosts of those soldiers who fell victims of their thirst for independence, and whose bones have been since quietly resting in the neighborhood should ever take a notion to visit the site of their old camp they would find that cheerfulness still characterizes the old camp ground, and that singing and music can sometimes be heard by new generations of people from both countries, now no more enemies, on this historic spot.

When passing that point, and the eye takes in the calm picture, formed by the silvery surface of the river, above which the sparrows constantly play in summer, have you never noticed that the curtain which is formed by the shade of the old willows and evergreen trees in the back ground, is one of gloom and sadness? Why is this spot, which is certainly the prettiest and the most picturesque in this locality, so deserted? Here are elegant sites suitable for pretty residences, and if a street were opened, which would only be the continuation of one already existing, the distance from the town would be very short.

Some sweet genius must have protected these grounds against modern diggings, in order that the bones which sleep there in peace might not be troubled. A good many soldiers of the camp of Major

Brown, later of General Wooster, died, and I would not be surprised if the old willows should cover their graves with their shadows. In any case the cemetery of that camp must have been but a short distance, although nothing now remains to indicate its exact situation.

The soldiers defending the fort, who fell during the siege were buried inside its walls. It is not impossible, however, that the military cemetery which now lies outside in the government field, on the south side of the fort, dates from that time. If so, it would then contain the remains of our brave defenders, though no inscription to that effect has been discovered. In the documents of that time I found nothing which indicates the place of burial, or any reference to it.

With the exception of that little cemetery, very much forgotten and abandoned, everything else has been levelled. That famous battery which was placed by General Wooster on a piece of rising ground on the north west side of the fort, and distant from it 250 yards, was on the lots now occupied by the residences of Messrs. Walmsley, Coote and Wilkinson, and Mrs. McDonald. There was at that place a sand hill which has since been removed. The earth works of that battery have also disappeared, having been removed when the railroads where cut through them, and the ground levelled to make the present G. T. R. yard.

The position of the battery on the eastern side of the river is not easily found, although at low water it is still possible to locate it. It was built and sheltered by earth works in the usual way. At that time the river was a little narrower than it is to-day. Franquet, the French Government engineer, in 1752 estimated its width opposite the fort at 120 toises.

A block house and wooden bulwarks were also built on the same spot which soon rotted away, but since that time the level of the river rising, isolated that place from the shore during the greater part of the year, and made of it a little island which became known as the "blagousse," a corruption of the word block-house. It was taken possession of by the young people of the place for bathing, fishing and picknicking purposes. Hon. Felix Marchand still remembers being one of the bathers at the "blagousse" when he was young. Mr. Walmsley also remembers having cast the fly at the same place. Little by little, however, the water encroached on the spot, so that the bathers and fishers had to seek other places for their purpose, and the little island has now been reduced to a modest shoal, hardly noticeable at low water mark.

There exists in St. Johns a particular relic of Montgomery. A snuff box which belonged to him is now owned by his namesake, our fellow-citizen, Mr. R. C. Montgomerie. After the death of the General this relic was given by his father to an ancestor of Mr. Montgomerie; these two families, though not related, being on terms of friendship. An old inscription recalls the name of the first owner of the precious relic. The family of the General and the family of our Mr. Montgomerie's ancestors were then living in England and it is one hundred

years after that this valuable talisman found its way to this historical ground, and influenced its present owner to settle amongst us.

We have seen that the young General had decided to resume his military career In America. It was here at the siege of the fort of St. Johns that he re-opened it, in taking the command in chief of that expedition in 1775, amidst numberless embarrassments, caused by the want of discipline of the officers and recruits of whom he had been given the command.

"The sword of Montgomery," which is carefully preserved in Quebec, contributed the title which Mr. LeMoine has given to a very interesting study.

VIII.

The first inhabitants of St. Johns were English-speaking people, military men who received land grants, or who, after service in the garrison of the fort, settled on the lands around it.

Most of these families have now disappeared. The Walmsley, Pierce, and Mott families still remain. The McDonalds, Whites, Charltons, Lavicounts, Cootes, Smiths, Futvoyes, and others came later, about the time the French Canadians began to settle here. The McCumming family, whose name was first given to Champlain street, has also disappeared, as well as others of that period.

The oldest French Canadian families are the Marchands, Frechettes, Bourgeois, and Dubois. It was Mr. Gabriel Marchand, father of Hon. Felix Marchand, the present local member of Parliament for St. Johns county and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, who founded, in 1802, the first business house of any importance in this town. It was situated on the present site of The News printing establishment. Mr. Marchand was a Quebecker, and allied hy marriage to the McNider family, rich lumber merchants of that place. He made, in company with the latter, large cuttings of lumber in the direction of Lake Champlain, and among his plucky captains was Mr. Charland, the grandfather of the Judge. Mr. Marchand's brother and partner, Mr. Francis Marchand, was the grandfather of the present Mr. Henri Marchand, prothonotary. A third brother, Mr. Louis Marchand, was the ancestor of the family bearing the same christian name. Mr. Gabriel Marchand long lived bearing the esteem, respect and confidence of his fellow citizens. He was Lt.-Colonel of the Kent regiment, and made his mark by his integrity and intelligence. From the same period date Messrs. Edouard and Ambroise Bourgeois. The latter was the father of Mrs. Jobson, the late Mrs. Paradis, and Mrs. W. Marchand.

Messrs. François Langelier and Henry Larocque may also be counted among the pioneer merchants of St. Johns, and although arriving much later, they succeeded, by their activity and spirit, in giving a strong impulse to the advancement of this new town, of which they were both elected mayors for several consecutive years.

It was in 1818 that the first Episcopal Church was built, and in 1828 the Catholic Church was erected.

In speaking of old families we recall a very singular episode, or more correctly a very romantic story or legend, which is to be found in the memoirs of that time, and of which lieutenant Jones, of Burgoyne's army, was the hero.

In 1777, two years after the siege of St. Johns, the brilliant General Burgoyne, who had command of the Lake Champlain expedition, was advancing on Ticonderoga, whose garrison took flight at the news of his approach, and whose inhabitants also took refuge in the country to hide themselves from the invading force. Among them was the McCrea family. A daughter, the pretty Jenny, was betrothed to lieutenant Jones before mentioned. Instead of hiding with the rest, Jenny rejoiced at the approach of the army in the hope of seeing her betrothed, while the heart of the latter was filled with anguish at the thought that his beloved Jenny, by the fortune of war, was to be found amongst the people he had been sent to invade. Some Indians, sent ahead of the army as scouts, met two women on the road, one of whom was Jenny. Always cruel, they did not hesitate an instant to kill the two women and to scalp them. Jones, anxious and struck by a sad presentiment, darted forward to them, when he at once discovered the fair and beautiful curls of his bride, hanging from the bloody belt of one of the barbarians. He immediately rushed on the Indian with such fury that at the first blow he stretched him dead at his feet; then snatching the scalp he ran away with that sad relic of his beautiful Jenny, who was the dearest to him of all in the world.

With death in his heart, and being refused permission to leave the army, he deserted, and took refuge in a house on the shores of the Richelieu river, when he devoted the rest of his life to the worship of the fair curls of his unfortunate bride. Each following year, the anniversary of the scalping was for him the renewal of deep mourning which lasted for fifteen days. During that time he locked himself in his room, refusing even to meet any friend or any member of his family.

At his death, which was premature, the scalp of Jenny McCrea was laid beside him in his grave. (*)

(*) This circumstance was mentioned by the celebrated Edward Burke in the British House of Commons during his great speech on Feb. 6, 1778, and made a very great impression on the House, so much so that Governor Johnston, who was present, stated that if the public had been permitted to hear it as it was delivered, it would have produced such an excitement as would have caused the ministers of the day to be torn to pieces. Horace Walpole, in his memoirs, thus speaks of it: "The 6th was memorable for the *chef d'oeuvre* of Burke's orations He called Burgoyne's talk with the Indians 'the sublimity of bombastic absurdity,' in which he demanded the assistance of seventeen Indian nations by considerations of our holy religion, by regard for our constitution; and though he enjoined them not to scalp men, women or children alive, he promised to pay them for any scalps of the dead; but, added Burke, the invitation was just as if at a riot on Tower Hill,—the keeper of the wild beasts had turned them loose with this advice: My gentle lions, my sentimental wolves, my tender-hearted hyenas, go forth, but take care not to hurt men, women or children. He then grew serious, and as the former part had excited the warmest and most continued bursts of laughter even from Lord North, Rigby, and the ministers themselves, so he drew such a pathetic picture of the cruelty of the King's army, particularly in the case of a young woman whose ran-

This faithful lieutenant was probably a member of one of those families of the same name which still reside in the locality. If not a member of the Jones family that owns the bridge connecting Iberville with St. Johns, possibly then a member of that other family of Jones living in Sabrevois.

We could scarcely realize to-day, when visiting the pretty towns of Vermont, and admiring the long floating hair, carelessly worn by the young American girls, that hardly a hundred years ago, more than one equally beautiful and attractive were scalped for the sake of their hair, while others were taken prisoners to be sold like slaves.

Those expeditions which had for their object the destruction of the villages on both sides of the frontier, were often made the excuse of all sorts of atrocities, the Indians who accompanied the marauders often bursting from all restraint and acting in the most barbarous manner.

It is reported that in 1677 two ladies of good society from the village of Hartford—Mrs. Wait and Mrs. Jennings—were captured by Indians who brought them to Chambly and swapped them for some rum. It was only in the following winter that their husbands succeeded in tracing them and obtained their liberty for the ransom of £200.

These facts show conclusively the immense improvement which this part of the country has undergone since that period.

The town of St. Johns, in spite of the immense drawback caused by the fire of 1876, has within a period of a little over fifty years, grown to be a town of much importance, and there is no reason why the progress of the next fifty years will not compare favorably with that of the first half of the century. This town, now that it has ceased to be an outpost of military strategy, occupies a most favorable situation for trade and commerce with our neighbors of the United States. The most friendly feeling exists between the people of the two countries, and instead of war and bloodshed, which characterized its earlier history, there is a constant display of kindliness and mutual respect, and it is to be hoped that such scenes of animosity and strife which we have faintly but faithfully endeavored to describe have passed away forever.

The only reminiscence of a military character which still has a place in St. Johns is the well-conducted military school which has taken the place of the fortress. Beautiful lawns and flower gardens now occupy the place formerly occupied by masked batteries and glittering bayonets, and, thanks to the improved civilization of the nineteenth century, we can quietly rusticate outside of its walls without danger of being scalped. We can also find our way inside of the fortress without fear of being taken prisoner.

The proverbial hospitality of the Commandant and Madame d'Orsonnens, and the courtesy of the officers, make the visitors forget

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som (not beauty) they quarreled over and murdered her, that he drew iron tears down Barre's cheek, who implored him to print his speech, and said, with many invectives against the Bishops, that it ought to be pasted in every church under their proclamation for the fast, and that he himself would paste it upon some."

that these are military quarters; or if we do not forget the purpose for which the school is established, we are deeply indebted to them for the efforts which are made to enliven the place and to add to its enjoyment. An open-air band concert every Thursday evening in summer brings crowds of listeners in boats silently gliding on the river, and reminding us in some small degree of Venetian scenes. With all the attractions and advantages, therefore, which St. Johns possesses, we can form but a very faint idea of what it may yet become; and while in the last century such great advances have been made, may we not anticipate that (in consequence of the accelerated progress which is now being made in every department of human enterprise and skill) a far more rapid proportionate advance may characterize its history during the next hundred years to come.

The present civic administration under the presidency of Mayor McDonald seems to encourage energetic action in the way of public improvements, and if the citizens would second these efforts, and take advantage of circumstances, there is no doubt whatever that St. Johns would become not only an important town in a business point of view, but also a centre of attraction equal, if not superior, to any of the charming American towns which border on Lake Champlain.

After writing the foregoing, I discovered that I had made an error which it is important that I should rectify.

Contrary to what is stated in Garneau's history, the first fort of St. Johns was not built in 1665, but in 1748 by order of M. De La Galissonnière, at the time Governor of Canada, and under the direction of Sieur De Lery, jr., engineer of the works.

It was the fort of St. Therese which was built in 1665, and in the same year the forts of Chambly and Sorel.

This fort of St. Therese was at the head of St. Therese rapids, about three leagues above Chambly and about one league below St. Johns. This fort was demolished in 1747 and the materials used in building the fort of St. Johns, which was placed at the head of the St. Johns rapids.

The road from Laprairie to St. Johns was then constructed and by it the distance between Montreal and Lake Champlain was considerably shortened and the portages of the rapids of Chambly, Saint Therese and St. Johns avoided. I am indebted for these new details to Rev. Mr. Verreau, who obligingly pointed out to me in his rich library, the "Historical Documents of the State of New York," published by E. B. O'Callaghan at Albany in 1858. In that publication there is a report of Mr. De La Gallissonnière and Intendent Bigot on the construction of the fort. It is stated in that report that the total cost of construction was fifty thousand francs, although each load of earth only cost a penny, "two sous."

It was in the month of August 1852 that the French Government

engineer, Franquet, visited this fort then under the command of M. D'Artigny.

Those who take an interest in the history of our country stand very much indebted to the Rev. M. Verreau for the information he is enabled to impart. It is from his work, " Invasion du Canada," that I have gathered the details of this narrative of the siege of the fort of St. Johns, and with his permission I have copied from that work the journal kept by Foucher, one of the volunteers defending the fort.

This journal, inserted in "Sanguinet's" manuscript without acknowledgement of the writer, leaves some doubt as to its origin.

However, it seems well established that " Foucher," a notary of Montreal and one of the volunteers defending the fort, kept during the siege a journal of the principal events connected with it.

As there is no other manuscript in existence which can possibly be attributed to him, and as some subsequent historians have made reference to it as his, there can be but little doubt about its authorship.

Mr. R. Bellemare, who was an intimate friend of Mr. Jacques Viger, to whom we are indebted for the preservation of the manuscripts of that period, seems well disposed to adopt this theory, and Rev. Mr. Verreau himself does not hesitate to admit that it is a very probable one. My friend Mr. Joseph Desrosiers, who has an inquisitive disposition, has not been able to add to my information on this subject.

I am also indebted to Hon. Mr. Marchand and Mr. Walmsley of St. Johns for many details of the past, which have aided me very much in tracing the different localities mentioned, also the situation of the army. The co-temporary memoirs of the time are, in many places, ambigious and often contradictory, and therefore the recent investigations from reliable sources are the more valuable. Mr. Marchand has contributed to the columns of the *Franco-Canadien* a short but very interesting article on the siege of the fort.

I must confess that in addition to the above sources of information I have old family papers, dating from the time of the siege, which stimulated my curiosity, and contributed largely to the pleasure of tracing these events. Among these papers are letters addressed by officers of Montgomery to Colonel Dumont of Quebec, my great grandfather.

When Governor General Guy Carleton decided to rebuild the fort of St. Johns, he also resolved to re-organize the old militia, and for this purpose he appointed two colonels, one for the district of Quebec, Colonel Dumont, and one for the district of Montreal, Colonel De Rouville. Neither of these would accept the position and the militia was not then re-organized. Our ancestors, although well disposed individually to place their services at the disposal of the King of England, would not, however, compromise their nationality in a civil conflict with which they had nothing to do.

This Colonel J. Bte. Dumont, who was a rich merchant of Quebec, had his residence on the plains of Abraham, precisely where Montgomery encamped with his army during the siege of the city.

This residence was taken possession of by the Americans and used as their military hospital. After the siege the British troops set fire to it and destroyed it. The old Colonel himself being looked upon in a suspicious way by the authorities, since he refused to accept a commission in the army, was imprisoned, and died shortly after his release. His early demise was due to the grief caused by such unjust treatment, and his family left the district of Quebec soon afterwards.

I gather these facts from several letters to Colonel Dumont, among others one from Colonel Van Ness, of General Wooster's army, under date of June 1776, one from Hon. James Livington dated January 6th 1797, and one from Hon. E. Gerry, an ex-member of Congress, dated Cambridge, April 13th 1807.

It was the grand son of this Colonel Dumont, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Montaigue Dumont, who was at Chateauguay under DeSalaberry, as Captain of the 2nd regiment of Vercheres, of which regiment he was afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel.

This time again, at Chateauguay, the sentiment of duty was stronger than that of national feeling. He died leaving no heirs but the children of his sister who had married my grandfather at Chambly.

FOUCHER'S JOURNAL.

SIEGE OF THE FORTIFICATION AT ST. JOHNS BY THE BOSTONIANS IN 1775.

Sept. 18th.—The Bostonians arrived at St. Johns in two sloops and barges, numbering about one thousand men. Major Preston, who commanded this fort, sent on the same day about thirty men of the Canadian troops to bring in the cattle which was in the bush near St. Johns. Soon after he was informed by a Canadian that there were two or three hundred Bostonians on the other side of a bridge about half a league from St. Johns, who were raising fortifications and who had taken four cart loads of provisions which were on their way to St. Johns, and also the cattle he had sent for; and that the bridge was already demolished, so that communication between St. Johns and La Prairie de la Magdeleine was cut off by the enemy. Immediately Major Preston ordered out one hundred men under command of Captain Strong, together with one hundred Canadian volunteers and a piece of artillery to feel the enemy. This detachment advanced and the Bostonians fired upon them. The fire was brisk on both sides and lasted about half an hour. The enemy left the battle field and was pursued for some distance. The Srs. Moses Hazen and Toker, and also Hazen's servant, who were within the enemy's line, were made prisoners and brought to the fort. Beaubien, Desauniers, a Canadian volunteer, and a soldier of the 26th regiment were shot; another soldier was dangerously wounded. During this action the artillery of the fort and of the gun boat, continued to fire for three hours; the enemy kept up the fire in return; but the above mentioned were the only casualities on our side.

Sept. 19th.—On the nineteenth the Sieur Monin with two Canadian volunteers were sent on a scouting expedition along the south side of the river, but they did not see anything.

Sept. 20th.—On the twentieth, two of the enemy's boats were carried by the current past the forth on the south side of the river. A cannon and some musketry shots were fired at them, and on a party being sent out, they were secured and found to contain five barrels of pork, one barrel of flour, one barrel of biscuits, and one man who was asleep and only awoke when the shots were fired. This man gave the information that in the fight at the bridge on the eighteenth, seven of their men had been killed and seven wounded. He stated that their force consisted of seven hundred men in the camp, who were fortifying their position and erecting batteries for the purpose of storming the fort. He said also that they had three mortars and six pieces of cannon.

Sept. 22nd.—On the twenty-second a deserter from the enemy

came to the fort, carrying his rifle on his back, and informed us that the enemy were building a battery on a big point, that their entire force consisted of three hundred men in the camp, five hundred blockading our fortificatins, and two hundred spread over the country—in all one thousand men. He also gave the information that they were short of provisions, that he was the first deserter, but that before long there would be a good many more. Immediately after his arrival we kept up a cannonade on our side for over an hour.

At four o'clock in the afternoon all the Canadian volunteers were sent to pull down three houses near the first fort, to prevent the enemy seeking shelter behind them, and while some were working at the buildings, others were watching in the bush to prevent surprise or attack. Sixty soldiers were sent to Moses Hazen's house on the south of the river to take his sheep for the use of the forts. Hazen's servant who, with his master had been taken prisoner on the eighteenth, was sent with the party to show where the sheep were, but he deserted to the Bostonians and the party came back without the sheep, no one being willing to point out where they were. They brought into the fort Hazen's farmer, his wife and their son. The two forts kept up a fire on the enemy during the whole time.

Sept. 23rd.—On the twenty-third, a second Bostonian deserter arrived, who stated that dysentery was raging among their men and thinning their ranks; that they saw no more Canadians nor Indians with them, that however once in a while, some one would come out of curiosity, who returned immediately, and that none of them would take arms in their favor. He stated also that Montgomery was about to attack our fortifications, which he thought were single, not double, as they were; that several Bostonians talked of deserting and that M. Montgomery had given it out that Major Preston had given orders to hang all the deserters who made an appearance. This day a good many bomb-shells and cannon balls were fired at the enemy. M. Mackaye and several voluntreers with fifteen soldiers were posted as guards at the skirting of the bush, to facilitate the transfer in boats of the materials of several houses which had been demolished, in order to form a line of communication between the two forts. During this time two women were seen in a canoe who apparently had some difficulty in landing at the fort. Five men having been sent in a boat to assist them, they proved to be two women who were living at Mr. Hazen's, where the Bostonians had gone and taken possession of all the cattle. Mr. Hazen was sent to Montreal under the charge of Chevalier de Lorimier, the former pledging his word of honor and giving a lien on all his property that he would give satisfactory reasons to General Carleton for having been found with the Bostonians in the encounter of the eighteenth. In reply to our cannon the Bostonians fired several volleys at the observatory boat, which returned the compliment with its twelve pounder. They also aimed two pieces of cannon at the schooner. The first shot carried away a spar and split a piece of the mast; the second shot broke its shackles and the third stove a hole in its waist four feet from the front. The boat imme-

diately withdrew to the shore; the enemy witnessing its confusion shouted "hurrah" five or six times.

Sept. 26th.—On the twenty-sixth, a Bostonian deserter arrived at the fort, giving us the information that only six hundred men were left in the camp, including two companies of seventy men each from New York which had joined the camp two days before; that they had only a few bomb-shells left, and these not of the same size as the mortars; that the water was knee deep in the camp; that the invading force suffered great hardships, having no blankets to cover them; that Montgomery had received a letter from Congress requesting him to make haste if he saw his way to do something, and if not to give up the enterprise. He assured us also that the Bostonians had suffered much from our bomb-shells; that on the day before he left, the alarm was so great in the camp that the whole force withdrew into the woods, leaving no one to take charge of the artillery during the night, and that in consequence the captain of artillery was taken to the guard room and locked up prisoner.

Sept. 27.—On the twenty-seventh several cannon balls and bombs were fired at the enemy who replied with vivacity. We had a soldier of the 26th regiment wounded.

Sept. 28th.—On the twenty-eighth, two more deserters came in who reported that Montgomery was stopping at the Big Point, that the battery firing at us only contained two pieces of cannon and two mortars; that there were only two cannons on each of their sloops and each of their floating batteries. He also said that Montgomery had sent seventeen boats to bring provisions from the "Grand Point" and a big mortar from Carillon. He gave the news that Allen, with a portion of his party, had been made prisoner at Long Point, near Montreal, by the gentlemen of the city, and had been locked up a prisoner of war. The same day, the 28th, at ten o'clock six Indians arrived without arms, a little in liquor, who confirmed the report about the capture of Captain Allen with a portion of his party.

Oct. 1st.—On the first of October the enemy fired a large number of cannon balls and bombs at the two forts. Two Indians came in who soon after went away.

Oct. 2nd.—On the second October our rations were reduced to one-half. During the night, the noise of several boats of the enemy were heard, and notwithstanding that a close watch was kept, two of them succeeded in passing the fort without being seen.

Oct. 4th.—On the fourth several Bostonians were noticed on the south side of the river near Moses Hazen's house. Several cannon shots were fired at them, to which the enemy replied in the same way. At about five o'clock, Mr. Monin, a distinguished officer, left the fort to bring in eight or ten cows which had made their appearance near the bush. He succeeded in bringing in six of them, in spite of the shots from the enemy, which he avoided by a tumbling march. The sieur Moquin, a volunteer, went for the two others which greatly replenished our stock of provisions.

Oct. 5th.—On the fifth, two cows left the enemy's camp and came in a straight line to join the others which had been caught. The same night, with the consent of Major Preston, a man named Chenier and two Leducs left the fort to carry news to General Carleton.

Oct. 6th.—On the sixth nothing important occurred.

Oct. 9th.—On the ninth of October, Mr. Mackaye with Mr. Monin and twenty Canadian volunteers were sent as scouts towards Mr. Montgomery's camp to capture some prisoners. They discovered a party of eight enemies under shelter. A short fight followed in which some Bostonians were killed and one made prisoner. He reported that the deserters who had left our forts on the 27th September and on the 7ih inst., were prisoners in the enemy's camp. He assured us there was only one thousand Bostonians in their several camps including the forces scattered over the country on the south side, with some Canadians, as well as those who were at the breast works near Mr. Hazen's house. During the night Major Preston sent Mr. Richerville and the sieur Leduc to carry a letter to General Guy Carleton at Montreal and inform him of the state affairs at the fort of St. Johns.

Oct. 10th.—On the tenth the enemy fired considerably and despatched nineteen boats loaded with two hundred sick men together with a Colonel to Grand Point.

Oct. 10th-14th.—From the tenth to the fourteenth nothing extraordinary occurred except much firing on both sides. Mr. Freeman, lieutenant in 7th regiment, was struck with a cannon ball in his back which laid him dead in the middle of the yard.

Oct. 14th-17th.—From the fourteenth to the 17th, the fire continued severe on both sides and the houses near our camp were much damaged. Messieurs Robertson, Rainville and Antoine Dupré left during the night to carry letters to General Guy Carleton.

Oct. 20th.—On the twentieth Mr. Montgomery sent a messenger, accompanied by a drummer, to our fort to inform Major Preston that on the eighteenth of the present month the fort of Chambly had surrendered after a siege of a day and a half; the first day only one cannon having been fired at the fort and two the second half day, and that they had taken in the fort thirteen thousand two hundred pounds of pouder, fifty barrels of flour and the flags of the two regiments which were at St. Johns, without any loss of either killed or wounded on either side. The surrender of the fort under these circumstances was very extraordinary, the more especially as the fort itself had received no damage. The commandant of the fort of Chambly requested Major Preston to let ten boats pass in front of the forts to carry the garrison women and children who were made prisoners. This was granted on the condition that the boats would pass on the south side of the river. There was in the fort at Chambly when it surrendered, ten howitzers, five mortars, two four pounders and three hundred bomb-shells. It was a matter of great surprise that the commandant should have surrendered without offering more resistance. This day M. Lacorne, a Canadian officer, died at half past four. Ra-

tions were brought down to half a pound of bread and a quarter pound of pork per man a day.

Oct. 29th.—On the twenty-ninth of October Messieurs Mackaye and Monin, with twenty volunteers went out at day break towards the enemy's camp and captured one prisoner. He informed us that General Guy Carleton had attempted to cross over to Longueuil but had been repulsed, and that Mr. Montgomery, by the assistance of provisions, ammunition and artillery found in the fort at Chambly, expected to take the fort of St. Johns in a short time.

Nov. 1st.—The fire continued on both sides as usual, but on the first of November, at nine o'clock in the morning, the enemy unmasked another battery which had been concealed up to that time. This battery was built on the side below our forts and began a most violent cannonade, which lasted without any cessation until four o'clock in the afternoon. Eight hundred and fifty shots were fired by the enemy besides one hundred and twenty bombs. During this fire several of our men were wounded, after which M. Montgomery sent a flag to our forts with a man named Lacoste, a barber of Montreal, who had been taken prisoner in the Longueuil affair, bearing a letter to Major Preston, requiring him to surrender. The letter gave information of General Carleton's defeat, assuring Major Preston that he need not look for any assistance from that quarter and therefore to prevent the further effusion of blood, which a fruitless and obstinate defence would cause, he would recommend a surrender of the fort. Captain Stron returned with the flag to ask that hostilities should cease until to-morrow afternoon.

Nov. 2nd.—On the second of November, Captain William of the artillery went to the enemy's camp with propositions of capitulation, and came back three hours after. With permission of Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Andre, lieutenant of the 7th regiment, went to the enemy's sloop accompanied by a drummer to ascertain from Sieur J. Bte. Despins, who also had been made prisoner at Longueuil, if what Lacoste had told Major Preston was true and the suspension of the arms was continued all day. In the evening Major Preston signed the capitulation with Mr. Montgomery. It was granted that some officers would be allowed to go to Montreal, to bring clothing for the prisoners. Consequently some officers of the regiment accompanied by Messieurs Hervieux and La Magdeleine started for that purpose.

Nov. 3rd.—On the 3rd, at ten o'clock in the morning, the troops and the Canadians who were found in the fort were ordered to lay down their arms in presence of two companies of Bostonians, but the officers were allowed by General Montgomery to retain their swords.

During the siege of St. Johns, which lasted forty-five days, there were only fourteen men killed or who died from their wounds, seventeen or eighteen invalided and about sixty slightly wounded.

End of Foucher's Journal.

LUCIEN HUOT.